



KAIMUKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 4

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 19, 2006 LILIUOKALANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Abe at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Cone, Eduardo Hernandez, Daniel Nahoopii, Mike Abe, Daniel Carvalho, Randolph Hack, Sharon Schneider.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Edison Lum.

GUESTS: James Toyooka (DOE-Liliuokalani Elementary School), Detective J. Martin, Capt. Green, Major M. Nakagawa, Lt. A. Ahlo, Sgt. V. Mattox, Officer N. Suzuki (HPD-District 7, East Honolulu), Chester Lao (Board of Water Supply), Gail Okamura (Leahi Hospital), Kim Kido (UH Manoa), Aaron Erickson), Nadine Salle, Liann Ebesgara, Matt Tutbill, Maureen Sweet, D. Thiele, S. Sanoda, Capt. R. Marshman (HFD-Kaimuki Station), Sa, Suzuki, Gordon Tam, Representative Barbara Marumoto, Representative Lyla Berg, Representative Calvin Say, Senator Les Ihara, Caron Wiberts, Jay Ishibashi (Mayor's Office), Dr. Susan Jackson (Governor's Office), Councilmember Charles Djou, Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Eric La'a (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTICES: Deferred.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Major Nakagawa, the new District Commander for 7, East Honolulu, introduced himself, Sgt. Martin and Capt. Green.

Capt. Green reported statistics show that graffiti incidents are up and two arrests were made at Kaimuki District Park. Addressing the problem includes the use of paintouts and residents are encouraged to call police if they see tagging in process and provide as much information as possible to assist police in better dealing with the problem. Major Nakagawa suggested that residents taking pictures of the tagging in progress could help police.

Detective Martin reported statistics show an increase in burglaries in the 4th and 5th avenue's area of Beat 762 – St. Louis Drive, and two arrests were made of known suspects, there has been a decrease since. There has also been an increase in burglaries in the Beat 765 – Kaimuki Town area, of businesses. The two persons arrested are also believed to be responsible for these burglaries.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Police should be called about suspected drug houses. A case was cited where a drug house was raided twice by authorities. When the federal Drug Enforcement Agency becomes involved depends on the suspect, a determination is on a case-by-case basis.
2. Officers have to see a violation of drivers breaking the new pedestrian safety (crosswalk law) to issue a citation, but problem areas can be monitored.
3. Follow up will be done on a loitering concern at the end of Koko Drive.

Major Nakagawa, Capt. Green, Detective Martin, Sgt. Mattox, and Officer Suzuki were thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Marshman, from Ladder Company 5, Kaimuki Station (which accommodates a ladder and engine company), reported the following:



1. From March 1 to date the ladder company responded to 5 fires and the engine company responded to 30 fires, the ladder company responded to 140 medical emergencies and the engine company responded to 33 medical emergencies, and the ladder company responded to no miscellaneous calls and the engine company responded to 7 miscellaneous calls. There were no major or unusual incidents.
2. The safety tip for the month is "Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second major cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen, even for only a few minutes, turn off the stove. Turn off stoves and appliances promptly when finished and unplug small appliances when not in use. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum rating of 2A 10BC) and learn how to use it. Inspect the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure that it has not expired."
3. Unattended candles also cause a number of fires and should not be left unattended and kept away from flammable materials.

There were no questions from the Board or guests.

Capt. Marshman was thanked for attending the meeting.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Chester Lao, from the Board of Water Supply (BWS), reported the following:

1. The Board of Water Supply does not charge the fire department for the water it uses to fight fires. The fire department uses and losses from water main breaks, and leaks, account for approximately 15 percent of water pumped.
2. Water main construction contracts usually run about one year. Settling of excavation sites takes time, and final repaving is not done until settling is complete. Some projects take longer than they should because a contractor may be working on several projects at one time and moves crews from project to project, leaving others idle.
3. There was a recent water main break on Harding Avenue.
4. Water rates may be increasing by 15 percent or more. There has not been an increase in rates in approximately 10 years. There is also an increase in sewer rates.
5. The recent rains resulted in most of the rain running off and being absorbed into the ground.
6. During the Winter water consumption decreases due to lower temperatures, less irrigation, etc.
7. Revenue for the Board of Water Supply is derived from water used. Bonds are being used to finance water main replacement projects.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Sewer charges are based on the amount of water consumed. Homeowners are charged a base fee for the first 5,000 gallons of water used over a two month period, and a different fee for each 1000 gallons used thereafter. Lao noted 40 years ago large water users paid a lower rate, today the more you use, the higher the rate.
2. There has been a change in the water bill format. Consumers are allowed 11,000 gallons per month without a penalty.
3. Concern was expressed about the rate increase having an adverse impact on residents as it comes on top of other rate increases in property taxes, etc. Lao noted revenue is needed to replace aging water mains, ones in this area for instance are 80 years old.

4. A problem with feral chickens in the area of Mau'umae Park and Board of Water Supply facility at 16th Avenue and Claudine Street was noted. Lao will follow up on a request that BWS better maintain their property and that authorization be granted to allow trapping of the feral chickens.
5. Clean up following a valve replacement at 12th and Alohea avenues caused damage to the street when a strong stream rather than a spray on the hose was used. Follow up will be done.

PUBLIC INPUT AND CONCERNS:

DEVELOPMENT OF CONDOMINIUM ON PROPERTY NEAR LEAHI HOSPITAL AND KAPIOLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE - Chair Abe noted, and Gail Okamura from Leahi Hospital, concurred that development of a condominium is not planned at this time. The property is only identified as part of an inventory.

ELECTED OFFICIALS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Jay Ishibashi, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. Various City departments have been busy dealing with the sewer break in Waikiki and flooding in various areas. Crews were commended for their work.
2. The Mayor is in China working on trade relations and studying mass transit systems.
3. The City Administration is working on dealing with homeless, sewer and flooding concerns.
4. In response to a previous question about a businesses operating in a residential area, the Department of Planning and Permitting reported that if the home was primarily used as a residence, a business activity is probably allowed; if the business is the primary use, it would probably not be allowed. A resident reported that the person seeking to purchase a home at 725-A 16th Avenue and operate an office to treat persons with attention disorders, that prompted this question, is no longer seeking to purchase the property.
5. In response to a question about graffiti at the old Queen Theater, the property owner was contacted, did paint out the graffiti, new graffiti appeared, and repainting is planned. It was noted that graffiti is an ongoing problem islandwide.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Follow up will be done on a previous request to repaint a crosswalk at 12th and Alohea avenues.
2. A resident reported bulky item pickup was not done, and when calling for a pickup, was not satisfied with the way she was treated.
3. A question was raised about why the City is allowing more development in the Kapiolani Boulevard corridor as there is too much development already straining the existing infrastructure. Ishibashi reported that new development is being done to meet demands, and some was probably approved years ago.
4. A question was raised about what the City is doing about sewer problems.
5. A question was raised about why the Mayor is in China when he should be here dealing with problems such as the homeless, crystal meth, etc.
6. Concerns were expressed about problems, especially noise, from increasing numbers of feral chickens at Mau'umae Park and Board of Water Supply property in the 6th and Claudine avenues' area. A resident reported a trap personally borrowed from the Humane Society and others set out by a private company have been stolen. Similar problems were noted at the upper end of 22nd Avenue.

7. No update was available at this time regarding the status of the Maunalani Park improvement project.
8. Concern was expressed about a large pot hole at Koko Head, 12th and Pahoa avenues only being marked with a traffic cone. The pot hole is so large that drivers have to go into the next lane to avoid it. Ishibashi noted that there are 10 crews on the road patching pot holes.
9. Age and the heavy rains are among the possible causes for the the Waikiki sewer break.
10. Follow up will be done on the cost of the new Fire Department Headquarters on South Street.

Ishibashi was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Councilmember Djou reported the following:

1. There was yet another indictment of a Liquor Commission employee for breaking the law. The U.S. Attorney may take over if reforms are not made. There is a problem with county liquor commissions as there is both State and county jurisdiction and neither is doing the job properly. Joint jurisdiction should be changed so either only the State or counties have jurisdiction.
2. The City is only now separating green waste collected in the East Honolulu area. More recycling should be done.
3. The Council meeting tomorrow includes work on the budget.
4. Regarding problems discussed earlier with feral chickens, a bill he introduced years ago to ban farm animals from residential areas, did not pass.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Individual residents or private organizations need authorization from the City to trap feral chickens in the area of a park and Board of Water Supply facility at 16th and Claudine avenues.
2. The latest indictment of a Liquor Commission inspector involved a kick back scheme from bars.
3. The State Department of Agriculture has jurisdiction on the legal import of non native animals into the state and enforcement jurisdiction on illegally imported animals, etc.
4. If the bill banning farm animals in residential areas had became law, the police would have had enforcement authority.
5. The Liquor Commission has new commissioners, new senior management, including a new director; and new inspectors, yet problems such as the indictment of an inspector, continue to exist. Additional changes are needed. One suggestion was to have police take over enforcement powers would deal with the problems created by past inspectors, but the police department opposed taking over this job.
6. Property taxes will be discussed at tomorrow's Council meeting. At this time valuations are up and the rate has not been increased. Councilmember Djou noted that a bill he introduced to limit tax increases to 10 percent a year failed. Opposition to increased property taxes residents face as it adds to the burden caused by increases in other taxes and fees.

Councilmember Djou was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – Councilmember Kobayashi was unable to attend the meeting. A written report was received and made available for interested persons to review.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – Dr. Jackson, representing the Governor's Office, reported the following:

1. The Governor has visited Kauai to inspect damage from flooding and the dam break. All dams in the state have been inspected and none found to be an immediate safety risk.
2. Work is being done on seeking a federal disaster area declaration. If approved federal funds for loans would be available.
3. The Governor's Homeless Solutions Meeting held on March 30 is being broadcast on Olelo.
4. The Health Department has been monitoring the water at beaches for contamination from the floods and sewer spills and bacteria counts are back to pre-sewer spill conditions. Updates are available on the department's web site.
5. The legislature is currently holding conference committee meetings on legislation. May 4 is the last day of the current session.
6. Copies of the Governor's Weekly Report were made available for interested persons to review.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Follow up will be done on the status of the federal disaster area declaration.

Dr. Jackson was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR LES IHARA – Senator Ihara left earlier in the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY – Representative Say reported the following:

1. Area matters of interest he has been working on include flooding and a drug house in the Wilhelmina Rise area.
2. The legislature is holding conference committee meetings at this time. Some issues being discussed include: a) avian flu, b) oil prices, c) impacts, such as banks not issuing mortgages due to an insurance company no longer issuing hurricane insurance policies, d) funding for flood damages, housing omnibus bill, airport improvements.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The House has passed a bill to repeal the gas cap with transparency to see where the oil companies, etc., are making their profits.
2. A bill to extend the deadline to add ethanol to gasoline was introduced. Production plants on Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island are being developed, but it will take approximately 1-1/2 years before they are in production. Other alternative energy production sources have been proposed, such as windmill farms and small hydro electric plants, but there was opposition from residents where such facilities would be located.
3. Kukui Gardens is only one of twelve similar affordable housing developments that are due to be converted to market price developments in the next five years. No new units are being developed by the City and development is now falling to the State. No federal funding is available, but there is a federal mandate to develop affordable housing.
4. Representative Say noted his opposition to more urban sprawl, such as over the Pearl Harbor aquifer, where there should be no development. There should be more dense development in the East Honolulu area.
5. At this time the City's proposed mass transit system is not planned to serve the Mililani and Wahiawa areas.

6. The State does not have the funds to help the counties solve problems they should have solved on their own.

Representative Say was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA MARUMOTO – Representative Marumoto distributed her monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The current session will end on May 5. Currently conference committee meetings are in progress on bills.
2. She is hoping legislation will pass on the gas cap, bottle bill, and tax relief.
3. The Governor has released funds for Capital Improvement Projects at Kahala Elementary School.
4. Kalani High School's fundraiser luau is May 13.
5. Recently some Aina Haina Elementary School students had to be evacuated to hospitals due to a nearby resident's misuse of an insecticide drifting onto school grounds.
6. For more information on summer school in this area, call Liliuokalani Elementary or Kaimuki Middle School.
7. The Department of Land and Natural Resources completed work to improve safety following a landslide on the outside of Diamond Head Crater. There was a landslide on the inside of the crater as well.
8. The recent crater festival event was held. She opposed the use of the crater for this commercial event. There has been no word on whether or not there will be an event next year.
9. Kaimuki resident Neva Rego was recognized by the legislature for her operatic career.
10. Chaminade University's Celebrate Kaimuki event was a success, and included activities at Liliuokalani Elementary School
11. A University of Hawaii Wahine booster club is being formed.
12. The Keiki ID project at Kahala Mall was held a week after the mall was damaged by the flood.
13. Her written report includes results of the survey mailed to her constituents.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Regarding the Super Ferry, Representative Say reported the ferry was funded \$20 million for the first year, and there are proposals to fund it either \$10 million or \$20 million for each of the next two years. Work is being done to develop the necessary port facilities to accommodate the ferry.
2. Thanks were extended for the legislature's work on human and civil rights legislation.
3. Work is being done to secure a long term lease for Pacific Shipyard, which is on a month to month lease in Honolulu Harbor, and does repairs to ships and builds new state of the art ships.

Representative Marumoto was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO - Eric La'a, from Representative Nishimoto's Office, had no report and was available for questions. La'a was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE LYLIA BERG – Representative Berg distributed her monthly report and other materials, and reported the following:

1. Her constituents' newsletter includes a survey. Results from surveys receive so far included support of early childhood education learning programs, and the development of alternative energy sources.
2. The recent City Charter Commission meeting at Hahaione Elementary School included discussion on amendments on sustainable community and development plans.
3. The Maximizing Your Child's Potential educational forum for the Kalani Complex on April 12 provided an opportunity for the schools administrators, teachers, parents and others to meet together.
4. Problems at Kahala Beach with a blocked stream and runoff from the outdoor shower, have been resolved.
5. She attended the Project Holokahi Polynesian Navigation Program with themes of land, sea and heavens.
6. The written report includes the status of resolutions she has introduced.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. She had no information at this time about whether there are plans to extend the H-1 further east.
2. Her resolution on supporting the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, passed the House and was referred to the Senate.

Representative Berg was thanked for attending the meeting.

LEAHI HOSPITAL – No report.

KAIMUKI BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION – No report.

PENDING BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON REAL PROPERTY TAX ISSUES – Chair Abe reported the City Council will be addressing this matter at tomorrow's Council meeting.

KAIMUKI PARKING PROBLEM, OVERVIEW AND OPINIONS, DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION – Chair Abe reported the following:

1. Proposals have included development of a standard type or automated parking structure that could also accommodate office space for meeting rooms and HPD field office, conversion of the parking lot to a combination of metered and attendant controlled parking,
2. Revenue from the meters generates \$900,000 a year, and it was suggested that this revenue be used in the local community.
3. Community meetings on the proposals are being planned, suggestions were for meetings to be held in the morning, day time, and nights, to accommodate different segments of the community.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVAL TO EXPEND FUNDS AS A DONATION FOR THE USE OF LILIUOKALANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – Chair Abe reported that the Board has not been, and will work with Principal Toyooka on the Board being billed for the use of Lilioukalani Elementary School to hold it meetings. **Nahoopii moved and Hack seconded to authorize the payment for rental of Lilioukalani Elementary School. The motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR MEETING NOTICE AND IMPROVE COMMUNICATION TO RESIDENTS – Chair Abe had no specific uses identified at this time, but would detail them later. **Hack moved**

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and Cone seconded to approve the use of Board funds for meeting notice and improve communication to residents. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2006 AND APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD FOR THE MARCH 15, 2006 REGULAR MEETING – Nahoopii moved and Hack seconded that the Board approve the Minutes of Regular Meeting for February 15, 2006, and the Memorandum for the Record of the March 15, 2006 Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chair Abe reported for the month of March the Operating Account balance was \$1015.29, the Publicity Account balance was \$1371.00, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00. **Hack moved and Cone seconded to accept the report. The motion carried unanimously.**

NEXT MEETING(S) AGENDA(S): Deferred.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant